

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed November 5, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-16, 18-22, 24-31, 33-40, and 45 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15, 16, 19-22, 24-29 and 45 have been allowed, of which claims 14 and 18 stand objected to, and claims 30, 31, and 33-40 stand rejected.

Applicants have canceled claims 14 and 18 to correct the dependency problem noted by the Examiner.

Claims 30, 31, and 33-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action objects to the language in claim 30 reciting a "machine-readable medium having code stored thereon which defines an integrated circuit (IC)." The Office Action asserts that the "original disclosure supports only a statutory/hardware system/method with only a brief mention that such hardware system/method can be or may be performed/substituted by various combinations of software and hardware without any adequate and enabling disclosure..." Office Action at page 2.

Applicants respectfully point out that pages 88 and 89 of the specification teach the following:

Embodiments of the invention may include various steps, which have been described above. The steps may be embodied in machine-executable instructions which may be used to cause a general-purpose or special-purpose processor to perform the steps. Alternatively, these steps may be performed by specific hardware components that contain hardwired logic for performing the steps, or by any combination of programmed computer components and custom hardware components.

Elements of the present invention may also be provided as a computer program product which may include a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which may be used to program a computer (or other electronic device) to perform a process. The machine-readable medium may include, but is not limited to, floppy diskettes, optical disks, CD-ROMs, and magneto-optical disks, ROMs, RAMs, EPROMs, EEPROMs, ...

It is also important to note that the apparatus and method described herein may be implemented in environments other than a physical integrated circuit ("IC"). For example, the circuitry may be incorporated into a format or machine-readable medium for use within a software tool for designing a semiconductor IC. Examples of such formats and/or media include computer readable media having a VHSIC Hardware Description Language ("VHDL") description, a Register Transfer Level ("RTL") netlist, and/or a GDSII description with suitable information corresponding to the described apparatus and method.

In particular, the last paragraph quoted above teaches that the claimed system and method may be described in terms of a hardware description language, such as VHDL, which is used to define an integrated circuits. Furthermore, the specification teaches that that the hardware description code may be "incorporated into a ... machine-readable medium for use within a software tool for designing a semiconductor IC." Applicants respectfully submit that an artisan could implement the claimed method and system in the context of VHDL or another hardware description language, which could be embodied in a "machine-readable medium" as taught at page 89 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been satisfied and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein are in condition for allowance. Early allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of all claims, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below for a quick resolution of any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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